GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1864
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
MINIMUM WAGES TO UNORGANISED SECTOR
RAMDAS ATHAWALE;VINAY KUMAR SORAKE

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to bring a legislation for providing minimum wages to workers of unorganised sectors including rag pickers and rickshaw pullers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether trade unions have expressed reservations over the legislation for lack of implementing mechanism; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA)

(a) to (d): There already exists a legislation namely the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 which provides for fixation, revision and enforcement of minimum wages in respect of the workers engaged in the scheduled employments, mostly in the unorganised sector, both in the Central and State spheres. Rag pickers and Rickshaw pullers are not included in the scheduled employment.

A Comprehensive Bill for the unorganised sector workers is proposed to be introduced in the Parliament, wherein it is envisaged to regulate the employment and conditions of service of unorganised sector workers and to provide for their safety, social security, health & welfare etc. The Draft legislation has been unanimously recommended by all the social partners in the recently held Indian Labour Conference on 16-18 October 2003 for introduction in the Parliament.